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Vista volunteers pitch in to make a difference in Montana

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NEWS RELEASE

Nov. 8, 2005

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VISTA VOLUNTEERS PITCH IN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MONTANA

MISSOULA—

Seventeen new Montana Campus Compact AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America were sworn recently in by Lt. Gov. John Bohlinger and began their yearlong service to communities in the state.

The new VISTA volunteers will work in 13 Montana communities and join eight others who are currently serving across the state.

VISTA volunteers seek innovative ways to address critical needs by connecting the resources that college and university campuses provide with Montana community organizations. Last year nearly 2,000 volunteers performed more than 18,000 hours of service and secured in-kind donations that valued almost \$80,000, as well as cash and grants of nearly \$125,000.

This year's new volunteers, school affiliations, areas they will serve and their projects are:

- Jeremy Duprey, MSU. Duprey volunteers with Interfaith Hospitality Network of Yellowstone County in **Billings**, a program that fights poverty by addressing the needs of the homeless and those who need affordable housing.
- Lize Harville, Rocky Mountain College. Harville is working to start a mentoring program in Billings that will address the high drop-out rate of American Indian students.
- MissE Lowe, MSU. Lowe works with the Billings T.E.A.M. Mentoring program that matches volunteers with children of incarcerated parents.
- Tristan Kladzyk, MSU. Kladzyk volunteers with **Bozeman**'s America Reads and America Counts, a program that uses work-study students to tutor elementary school students in math and reading.

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- Nora Olsgaard, MSU. Olsgaard serves with Volunteer Connections of Southwest Montana in Bozeman, an online volunteer clearinghouse.
- Autumn Nolte, Carroll College. Nolte is building an after school program at **Boulder** Elementary School.
- Rachel Wippert, Blackfeet Community College. Wippert is working on a project in **Browning** to promote reform of rural schools across the Blackfeet Reservation.
- Clara Hazelwood, Flathead Valley Community College. Hazelwood volunteers with the college in **Kalispell** to increase the volunteer base and infrastructure of Habitat for Humanity Flathead.
- Ellie Currey, UM. Currey works with UM and the Bitterroot Land Trust in **Hamilton** to assess the need for emergency food resources in the community.
- Skylar Atkins, UM. Atkins volunteers with the Hamilton School District to create an after school tutoring and mentoring program.
- Tammie Vandersloot, UM. Vandersloot is developing a service learning program at the **Hardin** School District on the Crow Reservation.
- Katie Homann, MSU. Homann volunteers with Bozeman's LINKS For Learning program in partnership with MSU's Office for Community Involvement.
- Laura James, UM. James volunteers with the Montana After-School Network in **Missoula**, which is part of a statewide coalition that works to increase the availability and quality of after school programming statewide.
- Amber Jackson, UM. Amber serves with the Missoula Family BASICS Program, which is part of Women's Opportunity Resource Development Inc.
- Kate Keller, UM. Keller is working with the North Missoula Community Development Corp. to establish a food cooperative for the north side of the city.
- Jennifer Gale, UM. Gale volunteers with Missoula's Sentinel High School through service-learning projects.
- Rose Furst, Montana Campus Compact Network Office in Missoula. Furst serves with the Raise Your Voice program that encourages civic participation of college students.

Montana Campus Compact, based at UM, is a statewide nonprofit organization committed to fostering a renewed vision for higher education that supports civic engagement activities such as volunteerism, community service, service-learning and campus-community partnerships.

For more information about MTCC, visit <http://www.mtcompact.org>.

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